CRYSTA SAVES THE MAGIC

Based on the animated feature film
FERNGULLY . . . THE LAST RAINFOREST™

HIPPO

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It was dawn in FernGully, and Crysta, a tiny rainforest fairy, was racing rainbow lorikeets through the mist.

Even though speed flying was forbidden by fairy law, Crysta was one of the fastest flyers in the forest. Only her elf friend, Pips, came close to beating her.

Crysta shot past the lorikeets in a dazzling burst of light. 'Not fair!' one complained. 'That's a fairy trick!'

Crysta laughed, and flew off to see Magi Lune, the oldest fairy in the forest. The frogs had been saying that someone was changing the weather, and that it might be Hexxus, FernGully's ancient enemy.

'Weather-changing,' wondered Crysta. 'Is it possible?' Magi Lune would know.

Guarding the entrance to Magi Lune's home deep in the heart of the Antarctic beech trees were two cassowaries, Ock and Rock.

'State your name, Crysta,' said Ock importantly.

'And the password,' mumbled Rock.

'All right,' said Crysta.

'Is that the password?' asked Rock.

'Sounds fine to me,' nodded Ock, scratching the bone on top of his head.

'Magi,' said Crysta softly. 'Who is Hexxus? Can he really change the weather?'

Magi sighed. 'A long time ago,' she said, 'Hexxus became the destroyer and upset the balance of nature. I had to summon the Old Powers to imprison him inside a tree at the foot of Mount Warning.'

'Can't he escape?' asked Crysta.

'Never!' said Magi. 'No natural force can free him. Something else must be changing the weather . . .'

Crysta flew home slowly, Magi Lune's words buzzing inside her head. Suddenly, Pips appeared in a flash beside her.

'You've been flying like an old mothball!' he said.

A roar shattered the peace of the forest. It was the mad, bad Beetle Boys, riding their noisy staghorn beetles. 'We've got you this time,' yelled Stump, their leader. 'And we're going to bash you!'

Pips and Crysta streaked away through the forest towards Thunder Falls. They dived into the spray, then shot up over the top of the falls. Pips slowed down, but Crysta kept flying, higher and higher.

'Crysta, stop!' shouted Pips. To his horror, Crysta disobeyed fairy law and flew straight through the tree canopy.

She disappeared.

For a moment Crysta was blinded by the bright light. She blinked, amazed. She had never seen so much blue sky! She'd never dreamt that the world above the tree canopy was so beautiful.

There, in the distance, was a towering rock. A thin, swirling black cloud rose from one side of it.

'What a strange cloud,' Crysta thought.

The sky darkened. Crysta looked up and saw a huge falcon plummeting towards her, its deadly talons outstretched.

She gasped, and dived for the safety of the canopy.

Crysta hurtled through the tall trees, feeling the falcon's breath on her wings. Any moment now it would snatch her up . . .

Tucking in her wings, she dived through a tiny opening in a maze of prickly vines. The falcon plunged after her, but the vines tore at its wings. Angrily it flapped free and headed back to the open sky.

Crysta sped on, her heart pounding, until she crashed into Pips as he hovered beneath the canopy, looking for her.

'What are you trying to do? Kill me?' he yelled.

But she just flew away as if she was in a daze. She had to see Magi Lune—now!—and ask her about the rock and the strange cloud.

Crysta found Magi floating around the forest near her home. New flowers burst into life wherever she passed by. Spellbound, Crysta watched Magi toss a seed into the air, then watched it change into an image of the world above the canopy!

'There are worlds within worlds,' Magi explained. 'Everything is connected, Crysta. From our forest world to the

stars, right down to this tiny seed. We are all part of the magic web of life.'

'I wish I could work magic like that!' Crysta sighed, then told Magi what she'd seen above the canopy.

'The rock was Mount Warning,' said Magi, 'And the cloud was probably smoke from a fire. Some unnatural force has freed Hexxus.'

When Crysta arrived home at the strangler fig tree which everyone called *Old Hi Rise*, the elves and fairies were waiting for her. They complained about her speed-flying with the lorikeets and her skylarking with the dreadful Beetle Boys.

'While you were out skylarking,' scolded one of the Elfin Elders, 'a falcon made a huge hole in the canopy!'

'I think . . . I think there is something even worse happening.' Crysta said. 'Hexxus is changing the weather.'

Everyone stared at her. 'Nonsense!' said her father. 'Hexxus is a legend best forgotten.'

'It's *not* nonsense!' thought Crysta. 'And I'm going to find out exactly what *is* going on.'

Pips was at Mossy Bank, playing music. Frogs and lorikeets provided a tuneful chorus.

Pips loved to tune in to the rhythms of the forest, but he couldn't stop thinking about what Crysta had just told him.

She'd said she was going to fly to Mount Warning. She wanted Pips to go with her, but he'd said, 'Oh, no! Mount

Warning doesn't exist. It's only a place in fairy legend.'

Perhaps he was wrong . . . but before he could think any more about it, a huge flying creature crashed past.

'It's some sort of bat!' gasped Pips, 'If someone doesn't stop it, it'll kill itself and everything in its path.'

The frantic bat crashed into *Old Hi Rise*, staggered to his feet and began to wail:

'I'm a freak from a labora-tree,
A freaky fruit bat as you can see.
I've been brain-fried, electro-wired,
Infected, injected and terrified.
Now, hang a fang while I flap my jaw,
Excuse the slang and I'll tell you more.
I'm rude, I'm nude, I'm even tattooed,

I'm scatty Batty Koda, one groovy dude.
I've been polarised and sterilised,
Hypnotised and humanised . . .'

'*Humans*?' said Crysta. 'Did you say *humans*? Were they at Mount Warning?'

Batty Koda shivered. 'Forget about humans!' he bleeped. 'And forget about Mount Warning, fairy-bug. It's a master disaster!'

Early the next morning Crysta persuaded Batty to go flying with her. As they neared the edge of the forest, Crysta told him that they were heading for Mount Warning. He crashed into a tree.

'Fractured figs, fairy-bug. There are *humans* at Mount Warning!' he bleeped, and refused to go on.

'I'll go alone, then,' said Crysta. And before Batty could say 'groovacious', she'd flown out of the forest.

When Crysta reached Mount Warning, there in front of her was the ugliest tree she'd ever seen. Was this the Hexxus tree?

Suddenly something lunged at the tree and toppled it with a mighty crash. Caught in the branches, Crysta struggled, and cried out.

Then something snatched her up, and a familiar voice said, 'Warped banana corpses, fairy-bug, you were nearly gobbled up!'

At that moment Crysta thought that Batty's crazy chatter was the most wonderful sound in the world.

As night fell, the elves and fairies of FernGully felt afraid. They did not yet know that Hexxus had escaped, but they were worried about Crysta. Where could she be?

While the Elders organised a search party, Pips and the Beetle Boys sped through the forest, calling out Crysta's name. Pips was sure that Crysta had gone alone to Mount Warning.

If only he'd listened to her, if only!

Crysta and Batty spent the night snugly in a tree. In the morning Crysta flew straight to Magi Lune.

Magi was looking into a large bubble of water she'd scooped out of the pond. In it, she could see row after row of tree stumps. Flocks of frightened birds wheeled in the sky.

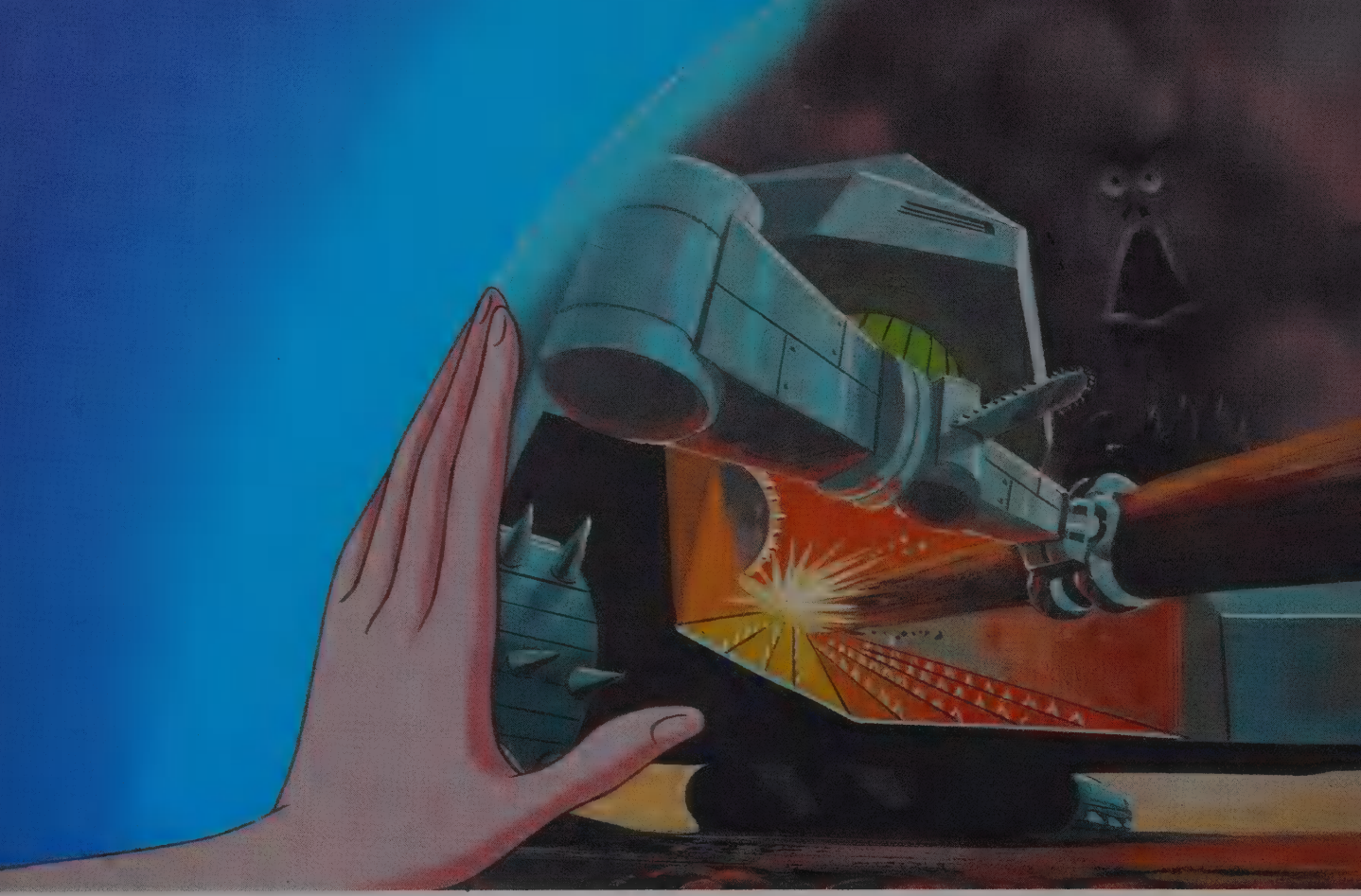
'There is something in the wind,' Magi said. 'The unnatural force that did this has also freed Hexxus. Soon the whole forest may be in danger.'

'But surely *you* can stop him again!' cried Crysta.

'I am no longer young and strong,' Magi said wearily. 'My power is limited.'

'*I'll* help!' said Crysta.

'Perhaps,' said the old fairy thoughtfully. 'But first I must show you the danger you will face. Once you have decided to fight Hexxus, there can be no turning back!'



Magi scooped up another bubble of water, and they stared into its depths.

They saw what seemed to be a monster in the forest, belching black smoke and felling trees with one mighty arm.

'That's the monster that tried to eat me!' Crysta said.

'It's not a monster, it's a machine for cutting down trees,' Magi explained.

Then Magi and Crysta saw an angry-faced cloud hovering above the machine.

'That's Hexxus,' said Magi. 'The humans, with their machine, have accidentally released him. Now he's got out of control.' She turned to Crysta. 'Do you still want to face Hexxus?'

Crysta swallowed. 'Yes,' she said in a small but firm voice.

'Very well. Then we must gather everyone together for the ceremony. There is no time to lose.'

The word went out throughout FernGully: *meet Magi Lune in the heart of the Antarctic beech forest. There is to be a ceremony,*

and Magi Lune is going to summon the Old Powers to save the forest!

Animals, elves and fairies came from all parts of FernGully, and gathered around Magi Lune as she hovered above the ground.

Magi put a glowing seed in Crysta's hand.

'Just as every seed holds the power and magic of creation, so do you, Crysta, and every other creature in the world,' Magi said. 'Combine your power with the love you feel for this forest and for all life, and you will banish Hexxus.'

As Magi spoke, her body dissolved, until she was just a spark of light.

'Your time has come, Crysta . . . look for the hero inside you.'

Magi's voice floated into the trees, and everyone began to sing. Together with the magic of nature, they would save FernGully. Led by Crysta, they all flew off, vowing that this time they would defeat Hexxus forever.

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It was dawn in FernGully, and Crysta, a tiny rainforest fairy, was racing rainbow lorikeets through the mist . . .

But there is even more excitement in store for Crysta. FernGully is threatened. Humans with their huge logging machine have accidentally released Hexxus, the forest's ancient enemy!

Aided by Pips, her elf friend, Batty Koda (a brain-fried bat), and Magi Lune, the keeper of the Old Powers, Crysta sets out to save FernGully from destruction.

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